Claims

1. A method of forming a printed flocked pile fabric having a substrate with flocking formed of fibers extending from the substrate comprising the steps of:

washing greige goods at a temperature and for a time period under conditions sufficient to enable a liquid to which the greige goods are exposed to reorient fibers forming a flocked surface of the greige goods;

reorienting the fibers with the liquid from an essentially uniform parallel orientation into random groups of fibers, which random groups extend essentially uniformly across the entire width and along the length of the greige goods, the random groups of fibers having angular and directional orientations that vary from one group to another; and thereafter

drying the greige goods; and

printing the greige goods to form the printed flocked pile fabric.

2. The method as in claim 1, further comprising, before the printing step, a step of heating setting the fabric.

3. The method as in claim 1, wherein the washing step comprises washing the greige goods at alternately low and high temperatures falling within the range of 20 °C to 90 °C.

4. The method as in claim 3, wherein the washing step includes at least one rinsing step in which the fabric is rinsed for at least fifteen minutes.

5. The method as in claim 1, wherein during the washing step the greige goods are contained in a wash chamber.

6. The method as in claim 5, further comprising, after the reorienting step, a step of removing the washed greige goods having random groups of fibers having angular and directional orientations that vary from one group to another from the wash chamber.

7. The method as in claim 1, further comprising, before the washing step, a step of forming the greige goods into an elongated tubular shape.

8. The method as in claim 7, further comprising, after the reorienting step, a step of opening the tubular greige goods into a non-tubular shape.

9. The method as in claim 1, wherein the liquid to which the greige goods are exposed during the washing step comprises water.

10. The method as in claim 9, wherein the liquid to which the greige goods are exposed during the washing step further comprises a non-ionic washing agent.

11. The method as in claim 10, wherein the liquid to which the greige goods are exposed during the washing step further comprises a fabric softener.

12. The method as in claim 11, wherein the liquid to which the greige goods are exposed during the washing step further comprises a desizing agent.

13. The method as in claim 4, wherein the greige goods are rinsed during the rinsing step with water.

14. A method of forming a printed flocked pile fabric having a substrate with flocking formed of fibers extending from the substrate comprising the steps of:

washing greige goods with a liquid in a wash chamber at a temperature and for a time period under conditions sufficient to reorient fibers forming a flocked surface of the greige goods;

reorienting the fibers from an essentially uniform parallel orientation into random groups of fibers, which random groups extend essentially uniformly across the entire width and along the length of the greige goods, the random groups of fibers having angular and directional orientations that vary from one group to another; and thereafter

removing the washed greige goods having random groups of fibers having angular and directional orientations that vary from one group to another from the wash chamber;

drying the greige goods; and

printing the greige goods to form the printed flocked pile fabric.

15. The method as in claim 14, further comprising, before the washing step, a step of forming the greige goods into an elongated tubular shape.

16. The method as in claim 15, further comprising, after the reorienting step, a step of opening the tubular greige goods into a non-tubular shape.

17. The method as in claim 14, wherein the wash chamber is part of a machine selected from the group consisting of: a jet-dyeing machine; a Beck dying machine; and a continuous washing range.

18. The method as in claim 17, wherein during the washing step, the greige goods and liquid are added to the wash chamber at a liquid/fabric ratio of between 1:5 and 1:15.

19. The method as in claim 18, wherein during the washing step, the greige goods and liquid are added to the wash chamber at a liquid/fabric ratio 1:10.

20. A method of forming a printed flocked pile fabric having a substrate with flocking formed of fibers extending from the substrate comprising the steps of:

forming the greige goods into an elongated tubular shape;

washing the tubular greige goods at a temperature and for a time period under conditions sufficient to reorient fibers forming a flocked surface of the greige goods;

reorienting the fibers from an essentially uniform parallel orientation into random groups of fibers, which random groups extend essentially uniformly across the entire width and along the length of the greige goods, the random groups of fibers having angular and directional orientations that vary from one group to another;

opening the tubular greige goods into a non-tubular shape;

drying the greige goods; and

printing the greige goods to form the printed flocked pile fabric.

21. A method of forming a printed multicolored flocked pile fabric having a substrate and flocking formed of fibers, wherein the fibers are arranged in random groups extending uniformly across the entire width and along the length of the fabric, with each group comprising a random number of fibers extending at angles and in directions that randomly vary from the angles and the directions of fibers in adjacent groups, comprising the steps of washing uncompressed greige goods at a temperature and time period sufficient to randomly reorient the fibers forming the flocked surface from a uniform parallel orientation into random groups of fibers with angular and directional orientations that vary from one group to the other and thereafter drying and printing the substrate with the fibers in said reoriented position.